

R E M A R K S

Careful review and examination of the subject application are noted and appreciated.

Applicant thanks Examiner Dooley for the indication of allowed matter in claims 1-7, 9-11, 13, 14 and 17-22.

SUPPORT FOR THE CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Support for the claim amendments may be found in the instant claim 9. Claim 16 has been amended to incorporate the allowable language of claim 9. Thus, no new matter has been added and no new issues are believed to be introduced.

IN THE DRAWINGS

While Applicants' representative does not necessarily agree with the requirement to label FIG. 1, in order to further prosecution, FIG. 1 has been labeled "conventional". A replacement FIG. 1 is submitted herewith. As such, the objection to the drawings should be withdrawn.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

The rejection of claims 16 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over Kraus et al. '979 has been obviated by appropriate amendment and should be withdrawn.

Claim 16 has been amended to contain language similar to claim 9, which is still believed to be allowable after a minor amendment to make the claim easier to read. Since the method claim 9 is allowed, the apparatus claim 16 implementing the same method should also be allowed. Claim 23 depends from claim 16 which is now believed to be allowable. As such, claims 16 and 23 are fully patentable over the cited reference and the rejection should be withdrawn.

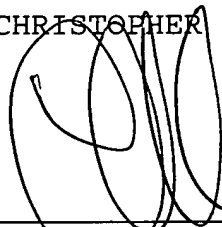
Accordingly, the present application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action by the Examiner is respectfully solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully invited to call the Applicant's representative at 586-498-0670 should it be deemed beneficial to further advance prosecution of the application.

If any additional fees are due, please charge Deposit
Account No. 12-2252.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTOPHER P. MAIORANA, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'C' followed by a vertical line and a loop, positioned over a horizontal line.

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Dated: July 29, 2004

c/o Peter R. Scott
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